



***Discovering his purpose for my life has given
me a whole new identity in Christ.***

My name is Lawrence, I am 52 years old, and I was born and raised in southern New Jersey. I was born into and exposed to addiction at an early age with both of my parents being addicts. My upbringing left me lonely, so I looked to the streets to find the attention and acceptance I was desperately looking for. This led to me using drugs, skipping school, and getting into all kinds of trouble. The state took me from my parents and for many years I lived in foster homes, reform schools, and children's homes. When I turned eighteen, the state of New Jersey released me from its care, and I was on my own. Also, it was when I turned eighteen that I was first exposed to heroin which led to some dark places.

I moved to North Carolina to try to start a better life, but I became addicted to meth and for the next thirty years I struggled with this addiction. God let me be a part of a loving Christian family and from this family we had three beautiful kids. In December of 2024 my addiction would finally catch up with me. God found me in a deep pit of shame, guilt, and all kinds of sin. I visited a church service with my son, and I cried out to God one last time. I went to the alter and desperately asked God for help. The very next day I was arrested for a drug related charge and was referred by a lawyer and a detective to Men's Challenge of the Smokies.

Since coming to Men's Challenge of the Smokies, I have fully surrendered my life to God. And, as I have grown spiritually, I am starting to know and embrace the true value of becoming a Christian and knowing God's will for my life. One of the many blessings I have received is discovering what God has really created me for. Discovering his purpose for my life has given me a whole new identity in Christ. I think for the first time in my life, I genuinely love myself only because he first loved me.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct my paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

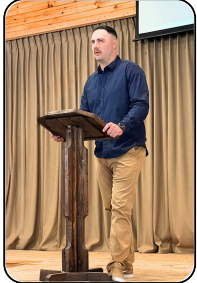


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MEN'S CHALLENGE HAPPENINGS



Congratulations Tanner



Thankful for the recent opportunity to share testimonies and worship with the wonderful congregation of Promise Lane Church.



*"The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."
Numbers 6:24-26*



Graduation



**Saturday, December 20th 10am
336 Living Hope Way
Reception immediately following
Everyone is invited to attend**



If you or your church plan to buy Christmas gifts for the men, please contact the office at 828-524-2157 for an approved list. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.



Rob Loafman

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



Life Chapel



Holly Springs Baptist

We want to recognize and express gratitude to the following Businesses/Organizations for underwriting and sponsoring our first annual Hope Gala this past March. We will continually recognize in our newsletters the many groups who sponsored the Gala and made it such a special evening.



TO MAKE A DONATION:

PO Box 2157, Franklin, NC 28744 or ONLINE at our website: www.livinghopeway.com

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT US AT: 828-524-2157

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